

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, with the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

- 1 – 22. (Canceled).
23. (Previously Presented) A bone fixation system comprising:
a bone plate having an upper surface, a lower surface, and at least one combination hole extending through the upper surface and the lower surface, the at least one combination hole including:
a first portion having a substantially circular outer periphery defining a first center point, and a plurality of threads disposed on the outer periphery, the plurality of threads extending over an angle of greater than 180° with respect to the first center point; and
a second portion overlapping the first portion and having an unthreaded elongated outer periphery defining a second center point;
wherein the first center point is spaced apart from the second center point along the upper surface; and
a bone screw having a threaded head for engaging the first portion,
wherein the plurality of threads on the first portion of the hole are configured and dimensioned to enclose and engage the threaded screw head over an angular range greater than 180° to prevent the screw from shifting laterally toward the second portion of the hole.
- 24 – 43. (Canceled).
44. (Previously Presented) A bone plate comprising:
an upper surface;

a lower surface; and
at least one combination hole extending through the upper surface and the lower surface, the at least one combination hole including:
a first portion defining a substantially circular outer periphery and a plurality of threads extending around the outer periphery over an angle of greater than 180°; and
a second portion in communication with the first portion and defining an elongated outer periphery, wherein the first portion defines a concave recess in the upper surface of the bone plate,
wherein the plurality of threads are configured and dimensioned to enclose and engage a threaded screw head over an angular range greater than 180° and prevent the screw head from shifting laterally toward the second portion of the hole.

45. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, wherein the first portion defines a first center point and the second portion defines a second center point, and the first center point is located between the second center point and the elongated outer periphery.

46. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, wherein the elongated outer periphery is substantially elliptical.

47. (Canceled).

48. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, wherein the plurality of threads taper radially inward in a direction from the upper surface toward the lower surface.

49. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, wherein the second portion is configured and dimensioned to engage a screw-head and provide compression of fractured bone fragments.

50. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, wherein:
the bone plate defines a first longitudinal axis;

the first portion defines a first center point;
the second portion defines a second center point; and
a second axis extends between the first center point and the second center point;
wherein the first longitudinal axis and the second axis are substantially parallel.

51. (Original) The bone plate of claim 50, wherein the first longitudinal axis overlaps the second axis.

52. (Original) The bone plate of claim 50, wherein the second axis is spaced apart from the first longitudinal axis.

53. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, further comprising at least two combination holes, wherein the bone plate defines a first longitudinal axis and the at least two combination holes are substantially aligned along the first longitudinal axis.

54. (Original) The bone plate of claim 44, further comprising a first section having a first longitudinal axis, and a second section intersecting the first section and having a second longitudinal axis that is transverse to the first longitudinal axis.

55. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the bone plate is substantially T-shaped or substantially L-shaped.

56. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the first section is longer than the second section, and the at least one combination hole is located in the first section.

57. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the first portion of the at least one combination hole is located closer to the intersection of the first section and the second section than is the second portion of the at least one combination hole.

58. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the bone plate is anatomically contoured.

59. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the bone plate is bent or twisted.

60. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, wherein the lower surface is concave.

61. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, further comprising a bone screw having a substantially spherical head for engaging the second portion.

62. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, further comprising a bone screw having a threaded head for engaging the first portion.

63. (Original) The bone plate of claim 54, further comprising at least one non combination hole extending through the upper and lower surfaces, and configured to receive a bone fastener.

64. (Canceled).

65. (Canceled).